

ÖkoBeschaffungsService

ÖBS Vorarlberg – Sustainable Procurement with Expertise

Procure, Allianz in den Alpen
Götzis, 08.10.2025



ÖkoBeschaffungsService Vorarlberg

History

- **Operator Umweltverband:** association of all 96 municipalities in Vorarlberg, founded in 1992
- 1999: **Eco-Guide: Office**
- 2000: **Eco-Guide: Construction**
- Since 2002: **ÖkoBeschaffungsService Vorarlberg**
- Since 2006: **Service package** Sustainably Building in the Municipality
- Since 2014: VWG „**Beschaffung & Vergaberecht**“
- 2020: Reorganisation of Gemeindeverband

The ÖBS Vorarlberg introduces itself...



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Why procure sustainably?

Government expenditure on public works, goods, and services



EU*

- ~ **€ 1,8 trillion** contract award volume p.a. (14% of GDP)

➤ A material contribution by public authorities to achieving sustainability goals

➤ Public procurement as an engine for innovation → creates incentives to develop sustainable products & services



Austria**

- > **€ 61 billion** contract award volume p.a. (18% of GDP)

➤ The public sector is especially present in construction, healthcare, and public transport

*Public Procurement Indicators 2013 / European Commission 2015

**ANKÖ, Auftragsnehmerkataster Österreich / TU Wien, 2019

Sustainable Procurement

A Definition – Our Goal

A procurement process that delivers the best possible environmental, social, and economic outcomes over the entire life cycle.

*ISO 20400:2017, Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable Procurement

Summary:



Procure in a resource-conserving manner, as much as necessary and as little as possible (sufficiency).



Look beyond the purchase price - assess total cost of ownership (TCO)



For all procurement categories listed in the naBe Action Plan, at least the naBe baseline environmental criteria shall be applied in tenders and awards



Use credible ecolabels as a reference;



START...

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Internal process – how purchasing works at the ÖBS?

Wie funktioniert der Einkauf beim ÖBS?

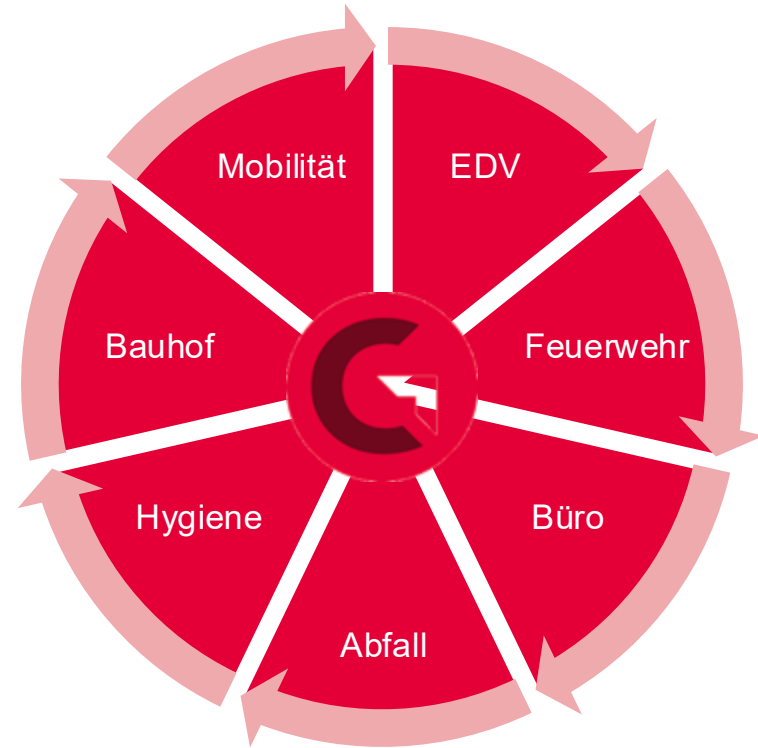


- Define the need (only what's necessary—sufficiency)
- Do market research (incl. regional suppliers).
- Choose the procedure (per Austrian procurement law)
- Set sustainability criteria (at least naBe baseline; use credible ecolabels)
- with Experts

Participatory Approach – Expert Teams

- **>80 experts** from a wide array of administrative levels and organisational units, divided into **7 thematic clusters**.

- **Advantages:**
 - Needs-based solutions
 - Efficiency gains through product experience
 - Quality assurance
 - Acceptance & transparency



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As a customer



- Get access (user account/roles).
- Pick pre-approved, sustainable products.
- Submit cart (internal approval if needed).
- Place the order (goes to the contracted supplier).
- Delivery & invoice from the supplier directly;
- ÖBS helps with any issues.

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Targets and Benefits



Savings – **Cash:** Result: 23% (University of St. Gallen, 2003)



Savings – **Time:** Result: 50% (University of St. Gallen, 2003)



Ecological innovation driven by targeted demand:

Example: ecological product choice “copy paper”

- Savings: 1.3 million kWh of electricity, 160 t CO₂
- All products are carbon-neutral



Regional value creation

Result: 80-90% of contractors from Vorarlberg



Legal certainty under procurement law

Through use of a central purchasing unit

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Product Range (extract, ~800 products)

➤ www.oeps-shop.at



Thank you for your attention

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